



25 AUG 1973

Honorable Albert C. Hall  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Intelligence)  
Room 3 E 282  
The Pentagon

Dear Al,

The CIRIS community information base maintained by my staff was developed jointly by the Department of Defense, CIA, and OMB in response to an OMB initiative five years ago. It was originally intended to provide the DCI and the community with resource data to serve as a basis for cross-program analysis of resource use. To date, CIRIS has been useful for selective resource displays, some correlation work and in the preparation of Congressional briefings and last year's National Intelligence Program Memorandum. It has also been queried in the course of a variety of studies, and it supplies a descriptive inventory of intelligence units and activities for the Critical Collection Problems Committee of USIB.

I believe the time has come to again examine CIRIS characteristics and uses to determine whether we both are getting the information we need from it and whether that information is provided in a form which ties in with other departmental management mechanisms. The larger part of the community information base is derived from Department of Defense data. Therefore, I would appreciate your proposing an experienced individual--someone with the stature of Maury Hellner, for example--to chair an IRAC Information Working Group which can be assigned the task of addressing our current and future information system needs, including those systems now contributing to CIRIS.

My objective is to achieve a responsive and cost effective information system approach to help us fulfill the President's 5 November 1971 directive. To this end, I would also like to see the community compile a simple record of substantive evaluations of source contributions to output, gaps, and the like for use by IRAC, USIB, and the NSCIC in measuring progress. CIRIS does not currently meet that requirement and, while I have some reservation as to how much detail any one information system should carry, the question should be addressed by the Working Group.

It is my view that representatives of your office and my staff, working with DIA, NSA, CIA, and the [redacted] should be able to provide us--no later than mid-December--a report with recommendations on how CIRIS or some follow-on system can be implemented for next year. OMB may also wish to participate, but at this writing we have not conferred with them. If the Working Group requires outside assistance, this too can be arranged.

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I understand you have discussed this general subject with [redacted] and that you indicated you would give some consideration to naming a chairman for such a Working Group. I would appreciate knowing your views and receiving your nominee. The IC Staff will provide the support the Group may require.

Sincerely,

*S/ Bill*

W. E. Colby

DCI/IC/ [redacted] (8/21/73)

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*Withheld*